belong to any particular service. There is no proposal for making such outsiders eligible for departmental tests.

Recommendations of Dr. D.M. Nanjundappa Committee

2514. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recommendations of Dr. D.M. Nanjundappa Committee that looked into regional imbalances; and

(b) the steps Government have taken as a follow up, thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Dr. Nanjundappa Committee has made 95 recommendations to redress regional imbalances and identified 114 backward taluks in the State of Karnataka. The Committee has recommended a Rs. 16,000 crores special development plan for these backward taluks of which Rs. 9600 crores for Northern Karnataka and Rs. 6400 crores for Southern Karnataka. The Government of Karnataka have constituted a cabinet sub-committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister to look into the recommendations and their implementation.

Proposal for increasing the number of districts in Madhya Pradesh

†2515. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether apart from the ten districts of Madhya Pradesh having developrnent at par with the national level, there are backward districts also in the State that have acute shortage of infrastructure;

(b) whether Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal to the Planning Commission for increasing the number of districts; and

(c) if so, the action to be taken by Planning Commission thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A Backward Regions Grant Fund has been announced for establishment in the current financial year 2005-06. The coverage of any

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.